

# ILIFETRAINING

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iLife training is a service of the office of educational technology in the Charter School of Education at Berry College and the Apple Distinguished Educator program



## Creating a digital story basic steps to follow

By Lynnwood Belvin

The very first step is to select your topic and plan the flow of the story from start to finish. It is important to create either an outline of some type or a graphic organizer in an effort to focus your story. This step will help you in finding pictures, sounds, and script writing.

Collect your pictures from the web using some search engine for graphics. Be sure to only collect large images (at least 400 pixels wide for landscape mode and at least 400 pixels high for portrait mode). If you are using Safari you can right click the image (after following the link to the actual picture) and choose "Add to iPhoto Library." If your Mac does not have two buttons you can perform a right click action by holding down the control key [Ctrl] and clicking the mouse.

Organize your pictures in iPhoto into an album. You can create an album by selecting

"New Album" from the file menu. Once your pictures are organized in iPhoto you can quit that application. Start the iMovie application, name the project, and move to the Media tab (found in the lower right center of the screen). Click the iPhoto tab that will appear. This step will list the pictures and albums in your iPhoto library.

In iMovie you can add your pictures to the timeline in the order you defined in your outline (or concept map). You can use the Ken Burns (KB) effect to add interest to your image or to draw the viewers attention to a part of the picture. Be sure to not use the same KB effect for every picture. This will actually distract from your story. Once the pictures are arranged you can add titles. This is found Editing tab (same location as Media). Pick the titles tab and add your title information. If you want your title on a black screen be sure the

"over black" selection is checked. This is usually the best choice for making your text legible on an iPod or TV. You may also want to check out the Themes tab (same location as Media) for some outstanding animated text. When you finish the video edits and adding text, play through your movie and practice your script. Make any adjustments that are necessary at this time to make the pictures fit and flow with your script. When you have finished you need to move your project to Garageband. To do this choose Garageband from the Share menu in iMovie. This process will take a few minutes so don't panic...

In Garageband you can add your voice track and any music/sound effects you wish. You will see the video track on the top and you may see Video Sound track under the Video Track. Delete the Video Sound track by selecting it and choosing Delete

Track from the Track menu. Add a track for voice by choosing New Track from the Track menu and selecting the Real Instrument radio button. In the Track Info window (if you don't see this click on the i found in the lower right area of the screen) choose Podcasting and then select the appropriate gender for Narrator. From the Control menu choose Ducking. Ducking is a tool/setting that makes one track heard over other tracks. When you select Ducking you will notice two arrows appear in the Mixer column. Click on the Up arrow for the voice track and the Down arrow for any music/sound. To add music simply choose New Track from the Track menu and select Real instrument. There are several prerecorded music selections found in the browser. You can activate the browser by clicking on the eye icon found in the lower left part of the screen. In the browser window click on the i icon (next to music note icon) to see the various podcast tracks.

When recording your voice be sure to be close to the microphone. It is possible to enhance the audio level using Garageband. When your project is finished in Garageband you can export (share) it to either a Podcast, iWeb site, DVD, or to disk as a movie file. It is possible to share the same content to all four of the listed final forms.

The finished product will be some type of movie file. You should make sure that you also keep all of your editing files (iMovie project, Garageband project, etc.) so that you can make changes if you desire. The iMovie file will be a VERY large file and may require some type of portable hard drive or data formatted DVD media to archive the project.

## Steps to follow...

- Select topic
- Create outline or concept map (note cards OK)
- Collect media for project
  - Pictures must be at least 400 pixels wide
  - Sounds must be a common format (NO .wmf)
- Store pictures in an iPhoto Album
- Store sounds in iTunes
- Use iMovie to edit pictures
  - Ken Burns effect to add interest
  - Don't use same effect for each picture
  - Duration measured in Min:Sec:Frame (0-29)
- Use iMovie to add titles (Themes and Editing tabs)
- Share finished video to Garageband
- Use Garageband to add voice (real instrument choice)
- Use Garageband to add sounds (new track - real inst.)
- When finished with project share to:
  - iPod for small movie size
  - iDVD for TV viewing
  - To disk for CD-ROM sized movie
- Be sure to keep all files for future edits!

“The greatest tales, well told, awaken the fears and longings of the listeners. Each man hears a different story. Each is touched by it according to his inner self. The words go to the ear, but the true messages travel straight to the spirit.” - Juliet Marillier, *Sons of the Shadow*

### About the author...

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